

# The Carolina DX Association

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K8YC	John Scott	Editor

# The Pileup

# **Newsletter of the CDXA**

#### C-o-n-t-e-s-t Locomotive

By John Scott, K8YC

Ahhhh..... the crisp dry days of fall, cool nights, breezes (again), college and pro football games, and radio contesting. On the first full weekend of football, one's memory drifts back to the familiar "locomotive" cheer. You know, pick your school and then think of the cheerleaders spelling out the name of the school one letter at a time like a chugging steam locomotive, then repeating the spelling a little faster each time until the whole crowd breaks into a big cheer.

The ARRL September VHF contest was the epitome of the locomotive cheer. Starting Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM the going was slow if not downright "sleepy". Propagation conditions were marginal at best. By Saturday night when it appeared time to pull the plug for the evening for want of QSOs, the score at the AA4ZZ mountaintop location was in the 40,000+ point range. Heck, the "regular gang" at AA4ZZ remembered scoring more than 53,000 points in the first hour of a VHF contest, and this was after nearly 9 hours of calling "CQ Contest".

Paul, AA4ZZ, was up early on Sunday to man the 6m station. There was a short auroral opening that stirred the household to life, but we were soon back to the same old, same old drudgery of the day before. By 3:00 PM on Sunday, all of the operators were a little dazed. The score had finally reached about 100,000 points. Whoopee! Those not manning an operators position were watching the Saints beat up on the Panthers on TV. Then there was a "C". Then, an "O". Then came a "T". An "E", shortly followed by an "E", "S", and "T". Was the train leaving the station? In the next hour, the "chugging" got a little more "steam". The pace quickened "C—O—N—T—E—S—T". Then a comment by a station in Pennsylvania on a pass that the operator on the 2m station was working some DX in Florida but he'd be with us in a minute. Were things beginning to change? Turn the beams to the Northeast. Quicken the calling pace. Slew the beams side to side to find the opening.

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems				
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)		
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600bits/second		
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type DX			
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com			
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC			
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org			
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)			

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Then things started to "roll". C-O-N-T-E-S-T. C-O-N-T-E-S-T. The speed was up to 35mph and climbing. I was scheduled to leave at 7:00 PM because of a commitment back home on Monday morning. The operator I relieved, had gone to the kitchen to get his fill to "take it home" in the four hours after I left. As the operator of the 222 MHz and 432 MHz position, I was taking passes from the 2m station as well as making my own passes from 222 to 432. Calls from Northern New Jersey were being taken with regularity now. Then Connecticut, Maryland, Delaware, New Hampshire, and New York. We even managed to fit in W4VHF out roving south towards Charlotte in the late afternoon. Seven O'clock came, and things were getting a little hectic. "I'm staying till 8 O'clock", I shouted to Paul (AA4ZZ) submerged in his headphones on the 2 meter station. Another hour, the locomotive was now a steady CON-TEST. I looked at the scoring software longingly at 8:00 PM. It read 216,000 points. I had to leave. Bill Fisher, W4GRW, slid into my chair as Ron Bailey, and Ken Boyd held down the 6 meter chair a ways distant. Three other operators, Scott Douglass (K2SD), Ric Porter (AA4SC), and Thomas McAllister (WB4TLX), had also participated but had missed the real fun by having to leave early.

Driving home, I heard a few folks chatting on the FM repeater about the contest. Some had actually folded the tent in the slow going of the late afternoon, yet I knew things were hopping atop the mountain, and there were still 2-1/2 hours to go! What had started as a

## The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/

11600 Hilda Court Charlotte, NC 28226

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/ Treasurer at the above address or via email at: k4sqr@juno.com. looming disaster was really going to be quite interesting. On Monday morning, I called Paul on his cell phone to learn what had happened. Paul's answer, "the train was not just "rolling" it was "rock 'n rolling". Final claimed score—in excess of 325,000 points. A good outing.

Final Lesson: "Keep your soul in the game. It ain't over till the fat lady sings."

# Swiderski, KU4BP, Roves Blue Ridge

Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, ventured northerly from home to Wilkes County during the September 2004 VHF contest. From his elevated position, he was able to work Connecticut and Vermont on two meters using only 10 watts. Ed sent along the pictures below.



All set up and ready to go with a great takeoff to the Northeast Metroplex.



To the northeast, nothing but a clear horizon.

# **Helping Hand Needed**

Many of your will recognize the name Josh Fisher, W4WJF. Josh is a member of CDXA and the son of Bill Fisher, W4GRW. Josh is currently pictured on page 94 of the October issue of *QST* for winning an ARRL Foundation scholarship at NC State.

Josh began his student days at North Carolina State University this fall majoring in electrical and computer engineering. He's carried his interest in amateur radio along with him and is now enjoying meeting some newfound friends in the University's amateur radio society, W4ATC. Josh was instantly popular when he brought his IC-706 to the shack to operate, because the most "modern" piece of equipment owned by the club is a Kenwood TS-820 and a TS-180. Some other gear is in need of repair.

So....., if you've got any gear in your shack that you'd like to find a good home for *or* you are a whiz at repair and you'd like to help a good cause, why not give Bill Fisher a call or send him an email so he can put you together with Josh and the officers of the NC State Amateur Radio Society (W4ATC StARS). Josh may be able to find out if any donations quality as a charitable donation for tax purposes. If you'd like to see their ham shack and learn more about the group, go to http://www.w4atc.ncsu.edu. NC State is very active in the University Sweepstakes contest each November. Right now, they have as a prime motivator the need to get everything fully operational or to get some newer equipment. Can you help?

#### Welcome, New Members!

The Carolina DX Association is pleased to offer a warm welcome to two new members. One of our new members gives CDXA a presence in the "far west". **Carl May, W1CGM**, joins us from Murphy, North Carolina. You can't be much farther west and still be in North Carolina. You can bet that they'll be looking for Carl in the NC QSO Party!!

Our second new member is probably one of the newest Amateur Radio Operator's we could hope to have, and his "Elmer" will surely ensure he quickly gains the skills to be a good operator. His name—Collin Webb, the new ham featured in last month's *Pileup*. Collin's Elmer is none other than his father, Roger Webb, W4MW.

#### The Toolbox

by K4ZA

(Reprinted with permission of the Potomac Valley Radio Club newsletter.)

This month, a potpourri of ideas relating specifically to "tools" and/or the toolbox itself, as it's been pointed out that my definition of toolbox seems to have strayed somewhat! Herewith, some ideas, suggestions, tips and techniques you may find of use.

Are your tools stored in less than ideal conditions, or someplace damp? To protect your investment, simply place some pieces of ordinary chalk in your toolbox. The chalk absorbs moisture and helps keep everything rust free.

Never throw out that one remaining good athletic sock (left over from the dryer or other adventures). Wash it and stick in your toolbox. It's a great disposable glove, for cleaning or polishing.

At a recent Charlotte hamfest, a potential buyer stood pondering some Plexiglas and acrylic panels I had for sale. "Are these 19-inches in length?" he asked. No one had a tape measure on hand. But a quick check with Mr. Washington showed that they were long enough—all US paper bills are about 6.125 inches long, close enough to answer this question.

Ever need to drive a ground rod? Ever wonder how to do that more easily? If you have (or can rent) a suitably sized hammer drill, simply chuck up the rod, then let the drill do the work. It will surprise you how easily you can get rods in the ground.

Ever need to drive ground rods in frozen soil? (Don't ask!) Simply start your hole, remove the rod, insert antifreeze into the hole, then repeat this process until you are past the frost-line. Laugh if you want, but this really works.

Speaking of hammer drills, if/when you're using a hammer drill to put a hole in a concrete floor, simply put some dish washing detergent in the hole. While cooling the bit, it also helps if the bit gets stuck, making removal much easier.

When I was younger and poorer, I once prided myself on using some split bolts for mechanical connections on

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a wire antenna. But when I took that connection apart, some years later, I was dismayed to find that I could no longer re-use this expensive bit of copper. Wrapping the bolt in plastic wrap and tape will eliminate this problem, at the cost of a bulkier joint, albeit one that comes apart very easily, once the protection has been cut away.

Something that's always in my toolbox is a cheap 2-inch nylon bristle paintbrush, wrapped in a Baggie. It's very useful to clean out crevices, shavings, dust, and so forth.

Years ago, while living in K3ZO's basement, I discovered that removing the remains of a broken light bulb is fairly easy if you use the new bulb itself. Simply make sure the circuit is dead, clean broken pieces or particles out of the socket with pliers, then insert the new bulb into the socket and twist in reverse. *Voila*, everything unscrews....

For those of you with table saws, try removing nasty gum and burn deposits on your table saw blade by using a good oven cleaner. Simply let stand a few minutes, then wipe off with warm, soapy water (wear protective gloves, of course), then dry the blade completely.

For maximum power when using your Crescent<sup>TM</sup> or any other adjustable wrench, always make sure you turn it in the same direction of the handle angle—so the strongest force is applied to the fixed jaw. (If you look, you'll see that Crescent<sup>TM</sup> brand wrenches are marked with an arrow indicating the correct turning direction.)

To get maximum performance and life out of your soldering iron or gun tip, follow these few simple steps:

- 1. Before using a tip for the first time, always pre-tin, to remove any oxide coating.
- 2. Clean and re-tin tips often. For cleaning, use a dampened Weller<sup>TM</sup> synthetic sponge (do NOT use rags or cloths).
- 3. Never file or sand the tip to remove excess solder. Doing so will damage the plating.
- 4. Do not remove excess solder from tip when turning the iron off. Solder left on the tip will prevent oxidation

And finally, a few words about files, one of the more mis-understood tools in the toolbox. From smoothest to roughest, files are "rated" as: dead smooth, smooth, second cut, bastard, and coarse. Measure the file from heel to point. The heel is where the file begins to taper into the tang—that part where a handle goes on. Handles make your work easier, and are recommended for all but the smallest files. The longer the file, the further apart the teeth are. Longer files are coarser than shorter ones. Remember this rule: Large, coarse files are for rough shaping and trimming materials; fine, small files are for sharpening and smoothing edges.

Match the file's shape to the work. Files are shaped to be round, half-round, square, flat or triangular. If you want to work a V-shaped piece of material, you would want to use a triangle-shaped file. On the other hand, if the work area requires a gentle curve, a half-round file is ideal. Square files work well for inside 90 degree corners, and round files are made for smoothing round holes. Flat files are good all-purpose files for any flat, straight edge.

Use a single-cut file when shaping or smoothing ferrous metals. Look for a double-cut file for projects that need material removed and don't require a smooth finish.

Consider a file with curved teeth for removing material with a smooth finish. Brass, aluminum and other nonferrous materials are best for this type of file.

Finally, look at the teeth on your file. They're only designed to "work" or remove material in one direction. A sure sign of a tool novice is to watch him move the file "back and forth" across the work.

Let us know what's in your toolbox! —K4ZA

#### Can't Find the K4MD Telnet Cluster?

A while back Sysop Joe Simpkins arranged for a new "human friendly" Internet address for the K4MD Telnet Cluster. The new address has the advantage of requiring only a one-time fee for the address rather than the previous annual fee. The change was announced on the Back Page of a recent issue of the **Pileup**, but it appears that some may have overlooked that announcement. The new address for the K4MD Telnet Cluster is:

#### K4MD.NO-IP.COM

. If you are using one of the several packages which permit accessing an AR-Cluster site using telnet, edit your address file with the new address given above. This login information will be repeated each month on the front cover of *The Pileup*.

# "Operating is the KEY"

Not in the habit of reading the front page of a newspaper? Then, perhaps you missed the item on the front page of last month's *Pileup*. This month the message is repeated *inside* the *Pileup* to respond to all reader's needs.

If you like contesting with a "carrot", then enter the CDXA's "Operating is the KEY" contest this fall. The prize is a Schurr Morsetasten PROFI2 CW paddle crafted in Germany and costing \$300. You must be a member of CDXA to enter. Then, be the CDXA member who has the **most number of CW QSOs** in at least two of the four qualifying contests and submit your scores to the qualifying organization to qualify as a club score counting for CDXA. Your summary sheets must also be submitted to CDXA to qualify. The four qualifying contests are:

ARRL Sweepstakes (CW) November 5-7, 2005 CQWW CW November 27-28, 2005 ARRL 160m Contest December 2-4, 2005 ARRL 10m Contest December 10-11, 2005

Details and a picture of this beautiful paddle can be found on the cover of the September, 2005 issue of the *Pileup*, available in the archives on the CDXA website.

## Time for SEE WHACK (CWAC) 2005

CQWW 2005 approaches and it is time once again for the CDXA "Contest Within a Contest" or SEE WHACK (CWAC) if you prefer. As in past years, there are prizes for both individuals and for DXpeditions. First place prizes for the categories of DXpedition, Combined SSB/CW, SSB only, and CW only will be an engraved acrylic award. Those who report at least 250 QSOs will receive a t-shirt with the CDXA logo on it.

The DXpedition prize is given to the member(s) that contributes the most points to CDXA's club total by going on a DXpedition as defined under rule X.2 of the COWW rules.

To qualify for the first place prizes, your score must be eligible to count toward the CDXA club total (see rule X.2.) The primary consideration is that the member must reside within 275 km of the club's area. We don't want to forget about the members who live outside the 275 km radius, so those members are eligible for the 250

#### QSO prize.

If you don't have much time to contest, or just want to "get your feet wet" contesting, here is another incentive for you. Make at least 100 QSOs and your name will be included in a drawing. (Members outside the 275 km radius are also eligible for the drawing. We will give away two autographed data cards (collector's items?) which were used on real DXpeditions in 2002 (VP8GEO and VP8THU.)

In all cases, you must submit your scores to CQ magazine to be eligible for the prizes. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or need any help getting setup for the contest. Full details are on Page 3 of the September 2005 issue of *The Pileup*, available from the archives on the CDXA website..

Paul Sturpe, W3GQ

Sturpe@charter.net Ph. 828-478-3650

# Ten and Twenty Years Ago....

(Gleaned from archived issues of the Pileup dating back to the founding of CDXA—available on the CDXA website.)

# Twenty Years Ago:

CDXA was about to implement a simplex repeater to be used to pass DX information only. (Remember, this was before the days of PacketCluster!)....Roger Burt (N4ZC) was pushing everyone to participate in CQWW (nothing new there!)....Ron (ZL1AMO) was trying very hard to find a gasoline generator for a mini-DXpedition to ZK3 land. Today Ron is a Director of INDEXA and still working to get rare DX on the air...NE8Z and 19 others were preparing to go to the Galapagos Islands to operate CQWW SSB as HC8X.

#### Ten Years Ago:

Ten years ago, the Pileup was only published three times in the calendar year for want of an editor. Therefore, there is not a lot of "history" reported for 1995 in the archived versions of the *Pileup*. The news that year was the search for an editor! The editor of the September 1995 issue wrote a nice piece on experiments he was makeing with Beverage antennas at that time. As for your editor, he had just moved to Charlotte at the end of July. Within a few months, he would find out about the radio room at Discovery Place.

#### One More Time for Awards

Okay, folks, we're inching closer and closer to having *all* CDXA members identified who have earned recognition in the DXCC Challenge or on the DXCC Honor Roll. Maybe that is why the editorial staff only attempts this effort every two to three years.

So, please add to the DXCC Honor Roll the name of **Gary Coffey, K4AVC** of Morehead City, who can claim 334 Mixed to his credit.

In the DXCC Challenge, please add the name of **Mac Murray**, **K4VNY**, of Topsail Beach to the Challenge list with 1727 Band Countries. Mac's total puts him up there with serious DXers and he's only six away from arriving on the Honor Roll, too.

With our statistician of yore now enjoying his severance package of three times his annual pay (don't panic members, three times zero is still zero), the editorial staff embarked on a semi-automated way to get it "right". We started with the latest issue of the Honor Roll list downloaded in PDF format from the ARRL website. Then, using the full version of Acrobat, we "searched" for the callsigns of all members of CDXA that we believed were close to being on the Honor Roll. The search must be repeated up to four times to find CW, SSB, Mixed and RTTY entries or until Acrobat tells you "No Record Found". If we miss searching for a single member, we fail to recognize them, And that, dear readers, is why we may wait three more years before repeating this exercise. We hope you understand....

The better way to replace the statistician is to have "a little bird" tell the editorial staff what's really going on out in the hinterlands. For example, a little bird just flew through the window and told me that **Gary Colborne**, **N1GC**, was in New England to visit family this summer and brought some older QSL cards to ARRL HQ for checking. He walked out with a 5BDXCC plaque under his arm and membership in the DXCC Challenge Award program. Then, when he returned home, he found that he received an award from CQ magazine for his 1,062,105 point effort in CQWW 2004 SSB. (Here's yet another CQWW SSB contest score missed by both the statistician and the editor. The "editorial board" has now fired the editor—Acting Editor.)

And, finally, to put the 2004 CQWW SSB contest to rest and pound a stake through its heart, we are pleased to

be able to report that **Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM/4**, was also recognized in the August, 2005 issue of *CQ Magazine* for his fine score of 354, 024 points.

Now everyone go get ready for CQWW 2005 while the editorial staff regroups and finds a new editor.

# What? More Missed Contest Recognition...

By Matsuma Gombroon, Acting Editor

Welcome to the Contest Recap now being compiled by the Acting Editor of *The Pileup*. We will make every endeavor to improve on the recent performance shown in reporting contest and award results.

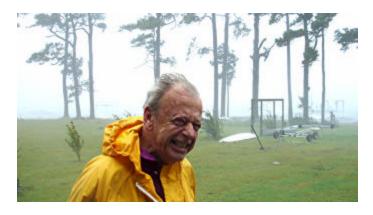
Please join me in congratulating the following additional CDXA members for their performance in CQWW 2004 CW contest as recognized in the September 2004 issue of *CQ Magazine*:

W4ZE/4	Ted Huf	639,516
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	523,342
W3OA	Dick Williams	423,094
KR4M	Duren Johnson	353,508
K4DGJ	Sam Hawes	66,552

A few members who reported scores for CWAC 2004 to CDXA did not have those scores appear in *CQ Magazine*. Please take that issue up with the statistician for *CQ*, who we know is paid far more than was the former statistician for the *Pileup*. –73 until 2006!

# Coffey, K4AVC, Winces at Oversight

New member, Gary Coffey winced when he didn't find his name among the elite on the honor roll listing. Below is a picture of Gary returning from the mailbox with last month's *Pileup*, just as Ophelia rolled through Morehead City. Fortunately, all is now well. (See article this page.)



# **Briarpatch Digipeater Back On-line**

Our Associate Cluster Manager Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, has been on the move lately. It seems the digipeater atop the Blue Ridge, which gives our members in the vicinity of Galax, Virginia access to the W4DXA AR-Cluster, took a lightning hit that wiped it out. It took Paul several trips up I-77 to Fancy Gap to get everything just right, but as of October 5, things should be better than before. Paul has replaced the digipeater on Briarpatch Mountain with a digipeater employing some new firmware which will improve performance.

To access the new digipeater, one uses a 1200 bit/second data radio tuned to 144.93 MHz (same as W4DXA) and logs in using the command "c ng4dx". Once connected to NG4DX, type "DXCLUSTER" or simply "DX" and you'll be connected to W4DXA on Young Mountain, about 11 miles NNE of Mooresville, NC. Then it's business as usual.

We hope our CDXAers in the vicinity of Galax will soon be seen again on the W4DXA node. And, thanks to you, Paul, for going "lots of extra miles" to get this digipeater working again.. The new logon information will be found each month on the front cover of *The Pileup*.

# Update on Peter I DXpedition

Those who were able to attend the SEDCO (Southeast DXing and Contesting Organization) First Annual Convention in Pigeon Forge, TN on October 1 enjoyed a real treat. President Goldthorpe reports that there were many good presentations. He particularly enjoyed a presentation by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on the rescheduled DXpedition to Peter I Island coming up in January 2006. Bob expressed to Ted his profound thanks for CDXA's contribution of \$1600 to the 3Y0X team. As you'll recall, when the DXpedition had to be postponed last January, CDXA chose to "let it ride" as regards our contribution, and the 3Y0X team is thankful for that.

Bob provided Ted with some facts that may surprise you. This will be a *very* expensive DXpedition to complete because of the need for a ship capable of negotiating the ice pack of Antarctica as well as the need for a helicopter, pilot and helicopter support team to "insert" the DXpedition team onto the island. The operation is going to cost \$500,000. The operators themselves are putting in \$320,000. NCDXF has made a large contribution. Many corporate sponsors and clubs (CDXA being

one of them) have pledged lots of dollars. Bob said the team is still \$35,000 short of covering known expenses at this time.

If you wish to contribute to Peter I and want a tax deduction for that contribution, here's what to do. First, the contribution must exceed \$50 for this treatment. If so, send your check made out to the NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation) and put on the lower left hand corner "Direct Contribution-Peter I Expedition". Put your callsign on the check and send it to W6OSP's callbook address:

Bruce W. Butler 4220 Chardonnay Court Napa, CA 94558 USA

At the end of the year, NCDXF will send the contributor a statement for tax deduction purposes.

For those of us for whom Peter I Island will be a "new one", we can't wait!

# **CDXA Barbecue-Saturday October 15**

Last Call! The annual CDXA Barbecue is upon us. By now you probably have received two emails from VP Thomas Wright, N4HN, announcing the BBQ as well as earlier announcements in the *Pileup*. This year's venue for the event is the home of Bob and Wanda Burton. Thomas is taking reservations for the caterer at 704-536-9117 or via email at twright@carolina.rr.com. Thomas needs a final count by October 12 at the latest.

Things will get underway at 5:00 PM with a social hour, and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Soft drinks, wine, and beer will be provided by CDXA. The dinner will be catered by Ric Porter, AA4SC. Desserts are to be provided by *you*, potluck style by bringing your favorite dessert for all to enjoy. Cost is \$10 person, payable at the door.

How to find Bob's place? Take NC 16 (Brookshire Blvd.) north from downtown or approach from the north where NC 73 crosses NC 16. At Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road go west about 1 mile to Country Lane coming in only from the right (north) side. Bob lives at 10420 Country Lane. Look for the 90 foot tower next to the house! See you there.

# The Back Page

The "last gasp" in the **September 2005 VHF** contest was more like a big wind. See the article on Page 1.

Do you have some serviceable equipment that you'd like to donate to a **university's amateur radio club**? Or, are you a guru at bringing old gear back to life? See Page 3.

Have you "lost" the ability to find the **K4MD telnet cluster**? See Page 4.

Win a German engineered and crafted CW paddle worth \$300. Details on Page 5.

The end of October and end of November brings us the CQ World Wide SSB and CW contests, respectively, CDXA will be running **SEE WHACK** (**CWAC**) again with prizes for all who make a modest effort. Details from the September issue of the *Pileup* are repeated on Page 5 of this issue.

**Did we get the Contest recognition and awards recaps right, yet????** We hope so, because our statistician and editor are now history. Your *acting editor* has taken on the task of "getting it right once and for all". Final details, we hope, are on Page 6.

Our "northern" members near Galax, VA now have a way to access the CDXA AR-Cluster from a reconstructed digipeater. See Page 7.

Update on the **Peter I Island DXpedition** is on Page 7.

**CDXA Barbecue** is on October 15. See details on Page 7.

Did everyone see the CDXA logo on the **Kure Island DXpedition** sponsor's web page? That's just one thing we do with some of the your dues money. Thank you for supporting CDXA. We hope you managed to work K7C.

Jim Miller, K4SQR 11600 Hilda Court Charlotte, NC 28226

k4sqr@juno.com

**First Class Mail**